

Watervliet Shakers South Family Cottage,
Building #1
South of Troy Shaker Road (State Route #155),
approximately 1/4 mile east of Sand Creek Road
Albany Vicinity (Colonie)
Albany County
New York

HABS No. NY-3258

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

WATERVLIET SHAKERS SOUTH FAMILY COTTAGE, BUILDING #1

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Location: South of Troy Shaker Road (State Route 155), approximately 1/4 mile east of Sand Creek Road, Albany Vicinity (Colonie), Albany County, New York.

Present Owner: Property owned by Mr. Leonard Bol, Shaker Road, Albany, New York.

Present Use: Demolished.

Brief Statement of Significance: This simple, frame structure was the first building erected by the South Family, whose farm was opened in 1800.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Physical History

- A. Original and Subsequent Owners: Original owners: Watervliet Shakers South Family - 1800-1938.
Present owner of property: Mr. Leonard Bol (bought South Family property in 1939).
- B. Date of Erection: Probably 1800.
- C. Original Plan, Construction: Single-room plan; two stories.
- D. Sources of Information: Lassiter, William Lawrence. "A Catalog of Shaker Photographs and Measured Drawings in the Historic Collection of the New York State Education Department, Albany, New York." An unpublished catalog of Shaker material belonging to the University of the State of New York, Division of Archives and History, Albany, New York, 1960. (Mimeographed).

(See data pages for Watervliet Shakers South Family, HABS No. NY-3272, for general historic information of the South Family).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: A typical example of one of the extremely simple, early structures of wood built by the Shakers before their "style" had been formulized.

2. Condition of fabric: In 1938, when the South Family left their property, the Cottage was still in relatively good condition. It has since been demolished.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: 20'-6" (south side) x 18'-5"; two stories.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction. Frame.
4. Porches, stoops: South elevation: two-step stoop. North elevation: small, covered porch.
5. Chimneys: Brick chimney located on exterior of east side. The measured drawings indicate that it was of "new brick."
6. Openings:
 - a. Doors: Two exterior, six-panel doors.
 - b. Windows: Double-hung, wooden, sash windows, six-over-six light with a number of later two-over-two light replacements.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, shingled.
 - b. Cupola: Square cupola with two, three-over-three light sash windows and two louvered sides centrally located on the gable ridge.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Single room, almost square, on each floor.
2. Stairways. A simple staircase in the southwest corner of the interior.
3. Heating: Evidently the Shaker iron stoves were used in this early building.

Prepared by John C. Poppeliers, Architectural Historian
National Park Service
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